

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTEENTH SPRING SESSION

OF THE

Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Liberty Hill, Stanly County, N. C.

MAY 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1897.

ALSO OF THE

Sixty-sixth Annual, or Fall Session,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Jerusalem, Anson County, N. C.

OCTOBER 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1897.

Compiled by J. W. JONES, Clerk, White Store, N. C.

G. M. BEASLEY & BRO., PRINTERS, MONROE, N. C.

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Proceedings of the Spring Session.

LIBERTY HILL, Stanly County, N. C., }
May 1st, 1897. }

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder A. G. Morton from the 39th verse of the 5th chapter of St. John

Intermission one hour, after which the ministers and messengers assembled in the house. Opened with praise, and prayer by Elder J. F. Mills, after which the business of the Association was proceeded with as follows:

1. Called for and read letters from the several churches in this Association and their status minuted. (See Table)

2. Organized by re-electing Elder S. C. Little Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Called for correspondence from sister Associations. Bro. S. C. Lanier of Abbotts Creek was present and seated.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister Associations to seats. Elders Wm. Lundy of Mountain Dist., J. E. Adams of Little River, and Brethren M. C. Morgan and Sam Snider of Abbotts Creek, were seated.

5. Appointed Brethren W. H. Poplin, A. Vanhoy and A. F. Huneycutt, with Moderator and Clerk, a Committee of Arrangements to report business for Monday.

6. Elected by ballot Elders Wm. Lundy, J. E. Adams and Jas. F. Mills to preach at the stand on to-morrow. Service to commence at 10, A. M.

7. Adjourned to half past nine, A. M., Monday. Benediction by the Moderator.

Saturday, while the Association was being held in the house Elders Wm. Lundy and J. E. Adams conducted services at the stand. Elder Lundy's text the 1st verse of the 3rd chapter of Malachi. Elder Adams used as his text the 5th verse of 1st chapter of Luke.

SUNDAY MORNING, May 2nd.

Service commenced at the stand by Elder Lundy, who preached from 1st verse of the 6th chapter of Isaiah. Elder Adams followed and preached, using as a text the 3rd verse of the 31st chapter of Isaiah. Intermission for one hour, after which services were continued by Elder Mills who preached from 1st verse of the 62nd chapter of Isaiah. The preaching was sound and timely and we hope the brethren and sisters were benefitted thereby.

MONDAY MORNING, May 3rd.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise, and prayer by Elder N. M. Clark.

8. Called Committee of Arrangements to report. The report was read and adopted and the Committee discharged.

9. Called names of Messengers; noted absentees thus *, and read Rules of Decorum

10. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder N. M. Clark reported that Elders S. C. Little and A. Gardner formed a Presbytery at Jones' Hill, and ordained Bro. A. G. Morton, Jr., to the full work of the gospel ministry. Also Elder S. C. Little reported that himself and Elder Morton, at the request of Union Grove church, formed a Presbytery at Jones' Hill, and restored Elder G. L. Chaney to the former functions of his office as a minister of the gospel.

11. The following questions were submitted to the Association by the High Hill church:

(a). "Is an Elder in order to preach when there is one or more brethren, or one or more sisters, that is not reconciled to him?" Answer, No.

(b). "Is a church in order when she refuses to hear a complaint of grief against one or more members from a sister church?" Answer, No.

(c). "Is a church following Baptist usage, or order, when she refuses to let her pastor sit as moderator—sitting him aside—not allowing him in conference until the important business is over, when her pastor is in good standing at home and with sister churches?" Answer, No; she is not following Baptist usage unless she has good reason to believe that her pastor is biased and would not conduct the conference impartially.

12. That we extend thanks to God, this church and people of this vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting.

13. Adjourned to time and place mentioned in our last minutes.

While the Association was in session in the house, services were conducted at the stand by Elders Lundy and Adams.

Large and attentive crowds of people were in attendance each day. Benediction by the Moderator.

ELDER S. C. LITTLE, Moderator.

J. W. JONES, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE. SPRING SESSION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.							
		By Experience.	Baptised.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.
Bear Creek.....	E. F. Huneycutt, W. P. Bowers, E. V. Herrin,....	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Bethany.....	E. C. Jones,* P. Vaughn,* N. G. Jones,....	1	1	..	..	1	..	11
Crooked Creek.....	H. M. Williams, Jr., W. D. Benton,* J. E. Williams,	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Freedom.....	Jesse Brown,* W. C. Furr, J. A. Holt,	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
High Hill.....	S. A. Helms, W. E. Williams, J. C. Williams,	4	4	..	..	..	..	59
Howard's Chapel.....	W. H. Poplin, Henry Carpenter, John Smith,....	2	2	..	..	..	..	9
Jones' Hill.....	S. C. Little, A. G. Morton,.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Jerusalem.....	Jas. Godwin, Joseph Thomas, L. Williams,....	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Liberty.....	Not represented,.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Liberty Hill.....	N. M. Clark, J. A. Smith,.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Lawyer's Spring.....	J. W. Jones, E. W. German, S. Edwards,....	1	1	..	..	..	..	33
Meadow Creek.....	E. Barbee, J. A. Barbee,* D. E. Huneycutt,*	1	1	..	..	1	2	26
Mountain Creek.....	A. Vanhoy, A. T. Huneycutt, J. T. Russell,*	..	..	..	..	..	1	13
Pleasant Hill.....	Represented by letter only. ....	..	..	2	..	..	..	8
Union Grove.....	G. L. Chaney, I. N. Medlin, O. Baucom,*	2	2	..	1	..	..	23
Watson.....	S. L. Mullis, A. Baucom, R. Williams,....	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

Absentees marked thus *

Proceedings of the Fall Session.

JERUSALEM, Anson County, N. C., }
October 2nd, 1897. }

Introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. E. Williams. Text 1st verse of the 2nd chapter of Ephesians. Thirty minute intermission. The ministers and messengers then assembled in the house. Service opened with singing, and prayer by Elder G. L. Chaney.

1. Called for and read letters from the several churches in this Association, and their status minuted. (See Table.)

2. Appointed Elder S. C. Little Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Called for correspondence from sister Associations. Brother Samuel Snider of Abbott's Creek was seated. File of minutes from Mountain District.

4. Invited visiting brethren from sister Associations to seats. Elder J. E. Adams of Little River, and Brother J. H. Hinson of Abbott's Creek took seats.

5. Appointed Elders N. M. Clark, J. F. Mills and Bro. W. H. Poplin, with moderator and clerk, a Committee of Arrangements to report business for Monday morning.

6. Appointed Brethren W. H. Poplin and T. A. McClenon a Committee of Finance to also report Monday.

7. Appointed Elders S. C. Little, J. E. Adams and A. G. Morton to preach at the stand on to-morrow; service to commence at ten o'clock, A. M.

8. Called for Circular Letter. Elder S. C. Little, the appointee, reported that he had failed to write and was excused.

9. Adjourned to half past nine o'clock Monday morning. Benediction by the Moderator.

Saturday, while the Association was in session in the house Elders G. L. Chaney and A. G. Morton conducted services at the stand.

SUNDAY MORNING, May 3rd.

Services opened at the stand by Elder A. G. Morton, using as his text the 7th and 8th verses of the 7th chapter of Deut. Elder S. C. Little followed and preached from the 9th verse of the 28th chapter of Isaiah. "Whom shall he teach knowl-

edge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breast."

Intermission for one hour, after which Elder J. E. Adams preached from 23rd verse of the 6th chapter of Romans.

The word was preached in faithfulness and we hope it may be as bread cast upon the waters, etc. There was a large concourse of people present and good order prevailed throughout the day.

MONDAY MORNING, October 4th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise, and prayer by Elder N. M. Clark.

10. Called for Committee of Arrangements to report. The report was read, adopted and committee discharged.

11. Called names of Messengers, noted absentees thus *, read Rules of Decorum.

12. Called on Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations to report. Elder Jas. F. Mills reports that himself and others appointed attended the Abbotts Creek Association and were received in fellowship. There were several others appointed to visit different Corresponding Associations but failed to do so and were excused.

13. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder J. E. Williams reports that himself and Elder G. L. Chaney formed a Presbytery at Liberty and ordained Brother J. D. Whitley a Deacon of that church. Also Elder G. L. Chaney reports that Elder A. G. Morton and himself formed a Presbytery at Union Grove in Stanly County and ordained Brethren Ephraim Barbee and J. A. Barbee Deacons of the Meadow Creek church.

14. Appointed Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations as follows: to Abbott's Creek, Elders J. F. Mills, J. E. Williams, Bro. H. M. Williams, Jr., and file of minutes; to Mill Branch, file of minutes; to Silver Creek, file of minutes; to Senter, file of minutes; to Mountain Dist., file of minutes; to Cool Spring, file of minutes.

15. That the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith of this Association be published in these minutes.

16. Called on Treasurer who reported on hand from last year \$2.25.

17. Called on Committee of Finance who reported sent up by the churches \$20.20. Total funds on hand, \$22.45.

18. That we have no circular letter for our next minutes.
19. That the Clerk ask Elder Gold to publsh notices in the Landmark of our two next Associations.
20. That the next Spring Session of this Association convene with the church at Bear Creek in Stanly County, N. C., and commence on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1898, and that Elder J. E. Williams preach the introductory sermon, Elder A. G. Morton alternate, and that the fall session convene with the church at Mountain Creek in Stanly County, N. C., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1898, Elder J. F. Mills to preach the introductory sermon, Elder Chaney alternate.
21. That the Clerk have 600 copies of these minutes printed, distribute as usual, and that he have \$8.00 for his services.
22. That we extend thanks to God, this church and people of this vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting.
23. Adjourned to times and places above mentioned in these minutes. Benediction by the Moderator.

While the Association was in session in the house Elders N. M. Clark and J. E. Williams conducted services at the stand.

ELDER S. C. LITTLE, Moderator.

J. W. JONES, Clerk, White Store, N. C.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year 1897.

Funds left over from last year,	\$ 2.25
Sent up by the churches this year,	20.20
Total Receipts,	\$22.45
For printing these Minutes,	\$13.00
Clerk's fee,	8.00
Total Expenses,	\$21.00
Balance on hand,	\$ 1.45

STATISTICAL TABLE. FALL SESSION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	By Experience.	Baptised.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	In Fellowship.	Contributions for Minutes.	
Bear Creek	E. F. Huneycutt, W. P. Bowers, Green Almond, . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	\$ 1 50
Bethany	E. C. Jones, P Vaughn, * N. G. Jones,	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1 15
Crooked Creek	H. M. Williams, Jr., W. D. Benton, J. E. Williams, . .	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	20	1 25
Freedom	Jesse Brown, * J. A. Holt, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	5	50
High Hill	S. A. Helms, J. J. Hill, Myers Medlin,	3	3	2	..	2	1	1	60	2 00	
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin, John Smith, D. B. Howard,	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	13	1 00
Jones' Hill	S. C. Little, A. G. Morton, Uriah Walters, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	1 00
Jerusalem.	Jas. Godwin, Joseph Thomas, T. A. Helms,	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	25	2 00
Liberty	J. D. Whitley, J. W. Helms, B. R. Funderburk, * . .	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	17	1 00
Liberty Hill	N. M. Clark, J. A. Smith, R. McIntire, * . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	60
Lawyer's Spring	J. W. Jones, C. P. Griffin, E. W. Garman,	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	35	2 55
Meadow Creek	E. Barbee, J. A. Barbee, T. P. Ledbetter,	2	1	1	1	..	2	..	27	1 30	
Mountain Creek	A. Vanhoy, A. F. Huneycutt, G. L. Chaney, . . . . .	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	15	80
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1 00
Union Grove	T. A. McClenon, J. T. Price, T. F. Hill, . . . . .	..	1	..	1	4	1	1	19	1 05
Watson	S. L. Mullis, Joel Mullis, J. A. Jones, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	1 50
Totals,										327	\$20 20
Absentees marked thus *											

Absentees marked thus *

Annual Communion Meetings.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	The date of each church's time of communion.		
Bear Creek.....	E. F. Huneycutt, Big Lick,.. N. C.	1st	Sun.	in Sept.
Bethany	N. G. Jones, Bennett,..... "	3rd	"	" Aug.
Crooked Creek...	S. W. Eason, Love's Level,.. "	5rd	"	" July.
Freedom.....	J. A. Holt, Whitley;..... "	2nd	"	" Sept.
High Hill.....	Myers Medlin, Monroe,..... "	1st	"	" Sept.
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Efrd's Mill,.... "	4th	"	" Sept.
Jones' Hill.....	A. G. Morton, Locust Level,.. "	3rd	"	" Sept.
Jerusalem.....	T. A. Helms, Negrohead,.. "	2nd	"	" Aug.
Liberty	J. W. Helms, Monroe,..... "	4th	"	" July.
Liberty Hill.....	A. Smith, Big Lick,	4th	"	" July.
Lawyer's Spring.	J. W. Jones, White Store,.... "	1st	"	" Aug.
Meadow Creek...	E. Barbee, Garmond,..... "	3rd	"	" Aug.
Mountain Creek.	A. F. Huneycutt, Bridgeport,.. "	2nd	"	" Oct.
Pleasant Hill....	J. S. Norris, Rock Cut,..... "	4th	"	" June.
Union Grove.....	I. N. Medlin, Monroe,..... "	2nd	"	" Aug.
Watson.....	S. L. Mullis, Sincerity,..... "	4th	"	" May.

The above dates, including Saturday before, also represent the regular monthly meeting time of each church.

Articles of Faith.

Article 1. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all of God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the Divine Word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Art. 3. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the only written revealed word of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice for God's church in her militant state while here on earth.

Art. 4. We believe the doctrine of Election, that God chose His church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Art. 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, their federal head.

Art. 6. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

Art. 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Art. 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and His righteousness only.

Art. 9. We believe that God's elect or church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Art. 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

Art. 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men.

Art. 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptised, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular presbytery.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment.

Art. 14. We believe that the punishment will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

Form of Government (or Constitution) of the Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association,

which was adopted in the date of A. D., 1832, and has been in vogue ever since.

1st. The Association shall be composed of members duly chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association, who producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.

2nd. In the letters from the different churches, shall be expressed their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, excommunicated, restored and dead since the last association.

3rd. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Bear Creek Association, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power to infringe on the internal rights of the church, nevertheless in some cases, it becomes necessary to have some uniform rule for proceeding, viz.: when an offense may be committed by one church against another, we advise the church so offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fail of success, she may call in the aid of two or more churches in the union to assist in the labors, and, if finally, satisfaction in the opinion of the helps cannot be obtained, then the aggrieved church may bring the case before the Association, whose duty it shall be to act on it; and also, when any serious difference may arise, in any individual church, which they all, after due labor had, cannot reconcile, we advise the church then to call in the aid of two or more churches in the Union to assist in the work; and, if no satisfaction can be had, it may be brought before the Association, who shall act on it, and further to illustrate the mode of proceeding in the above cases, reference shall be had to the 18th chapter of the gospel by Matthew and other scriptures, which respect discipline for the bringing to trial, and determining on the case of an individual member in an individual church, and the Association will take cognizance of no case of the kind unless the above proceeding be had thereon.

4th. The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper Decorum, which they are authorized to form for themselves.

5th. The Association shall appoint a Chief Speaker or Moderator from among themselves for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum shall be attended to, take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before them; and a Clerk shall be appointed by the Association, whose duty it shall be to take a correct minute of the proceedings of the Association, keep a regular file of the minutes, who shall be at liberty to choose his assistant.

6th. New churches may be admitted into this union, who shall petition by letter and delegate or delegates on examination, if found orthodox and orderly may be received and may be manifested by the chief speaker or Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegate or delegates.

7th. Every church or delegate shall be entitled to representation in the Association, but shall not have more than three members from a church.

8th. Any query presented to the Association by any church in the Union shall be read, on which the sense of the Association shall be taken, whether it be considered, and if there be a majority for taking it into consideration it shall be examined, otherwise it shall be withdrawn, nevertheless no query except such as relate to the general Union, shall be received from any church which has not been deliberately considered in the church in which it originated and which they cannot get satisfaction.

9th. Every motion made in order and seconded, shall come under consideration of the Association unless it be withdrawn by the person who made it together with his second.

10th. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of their proceedings, and in order to enable them to do it in the most convenient manner it is recommended that the churches should contribute such sums of money as they think proper and send by their messengers, which, when received, shall be put into the hands of the Treasurer appointed for that purpose, and shall be distributed as the Association may direct for the benefit of the church.

11th. Presbyteries for the purpose of constituting churches, or acting in conjunction with the churchers, in ordaining ministers or restoring those whose gifts have been suspended by excommunication to their former functions, shall be composed of two or more ministers in the Union.

12th. The Association shall provide for the general Union of the churches, preserve a chain of communication among them, give them advice in matters of difficulties, enquire into the cause why any churches fail to represent themselves in the Association, appropriate the money sent by the churches for Associational fund to any purpose they may think proper or necessary for the benefit of the churches, and appoint any member or members of the Association with his or their consent to transact any business for the benefit of the Union which they think proper.

13th. The Association may withdraw from any church or churches that are disorderly in principle or practice.

14th. The Association may, at its setting, admit any distant brethren, whose principles accord with theirs, to sit with them, who shall be at liberty to discourse any question, and give his light, but not permitted to vote except touching the general Union.

15th. All questions should be determined by a majority of members present, except in the reception of churches which should be unanimous.

16th. Two-thirds of the members form a quorum to do business.

17th. Amendments may be made to this form of government and to this constitution—a majority of members being present.

18th. The minutes of this Association shall be read and corrected if need be, and signed by the chief speaker and clerk.

19th. The Association may adjourn to any time and place they may think proper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. A Moderator or Chief Speaker and Clerk may be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

2nd. The Chief Speaker or Moderator shall take his seat at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned, and after prayer shall proceed to business, it shall be his duty to keep order, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as that of another member; provided he appoint one of the members to fill the chair during the exercises of such privilege, and in no case shall give a vote unless the Association be equally divided.

3rd. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Chief Speaker by the appellation of Brother, and while speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject in question, and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in nowise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips and failings and imperfections, but shall fairly give his own views of the case without sophistry or criticism.

4th. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject without leave of the Association.

5th. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

6th. No member of the Association shall address any other member by any other term or name than that of brother.

7th. The Chief Speaker or Moderator, shall not interrupt one member to prohibit him from speaking until his speech is finished. except he break the Rules of Decorum.

8th. The names of all of the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and be called over as often as the Association may require.

Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break or violate any of the foregoing rules of this Association, shall be reproved by the Association in any way they may think proper.

